

live in the greatest country in the world, and it is not, but if it were one of us, if it were our family suffering the slaughter, would we be content with the councils of patience and delay? I daresay the answer is no. That is why I feel so passionately that we have an opportunity to fulfill the commitment to say "never again."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator MENENDEZ, for his eloquent statement and for sponsoring this incredibly important amendment. I am proud to be a cosponsor with him and a number of my colleagues. It is incredibly important that we act and that we act now.

As Senator MENENDEZ described his amendment, it would add \$60 million to address the shortfall in the U.S. contribution to the United Nations for international peacekeeping and to fund a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The situation in Darfur is alarming, and it is a true emergency. In fact, words can't describe how much of an emergency this is. Approximately 3.5 million men, women, and children in the western Darfur region of the Sudan are in a fight for their lives against the Sudanese Government-sponsored campaign of violence and forced starvation. Since the conflict began in February of 2003, recent estimates are that there are as many as 400,000—400,000—Sudanese people who have died, and more than 2 million who have been displaced. By some estimates, 500 people perish every day in Darfur. Five hundred people perished today, if those estimates are correct, 500 more will die tomorrow, and 500 more will die the next day. If this is not genocide, I don't know what is, and we must act to stop it as soon as possible.

The United States has taken the lead in the international community to provide humanitarian aid and to support the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur. However, we must do more. Clearly we have not done what we should and we have not done it fast enough if 500 people are dying every day.

We must ensure that our contribution to the United Nations Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities account is paid in full so that we are credible when we support a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Darfur. This amendment helps make that possible. We must also apply pressure to the Sudanese Government so that they take action to stop the killing or face the consequences of their actions. We must not sit idly by any longer as people die from a coordinated government-sponsored campaign of violence and forced starvation.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act which calls for assistance to the African Union peacekeepers and urges the President to press for NATO sup-

port of the peacekeeping mission. I am hopeful that the House and Senate will soon—very soon—resolve the differences between the versions of the bill and send it to the President for his signature as soon as possible. Millions of men, women, and children are waiting and praying for us to act and to act now.

I am proud to join with Senator MENENDEZ and with colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this critical funding amendment regarding the U.N. peacekeeping mission to put an end to the genocide and bring peace to the people of Darfur. This is an opportunity for all of us together to do something that will address literally the lives of people who have no one else to turn to but those of us who understand what is going on and have the ability to act.

So on behalf of the human race, I urge this amendment and other actions be taken as soon as possible. We must act, and we must act now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

BIOMETRICS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the committee report accompanying the fiscal year 2006 Iraq/Katrina supplemental appropriations bill includes the following provision: "The Committee is aware that the Defense Science Board is studying the management of the Department of Defense's biometrics program and will make recommendations on whether or not the current structure is meeting the needs of the warfighters dependent on the system in Iraq and in the Global War on Terror. The Committee directs no management changes be made until the Defense Science Board completes its study and informs the Congress of its recommendation."

Would it be the understanding of the Senator from Hawaii that any new or ongoing organization, personnel, or management changes within the Army, to include the Biometrics Fusion Center, be ceased until the Defense Science Board report is complete and briefed to Congress?

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, that would be my understanding.

Mr. BYRD. Does the Senator also agree that until the Defense Science Board, DSB, study is complete and briefed to Congress, the Biometrics Fusion Center should continue to execute its mission to acquire, test, evaluate, and integrate biometrics, as well as to develop and implement storage methods for biometrics templates?

Mr. INOUE. I do agree with the distinguished ranking member of the full committee. He has accurately clarified this matter.

Mr. BYRD. I thank my distinguished colleague for his comments.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. DOMENICI. As the Senate is aware, the Southwestern United States has been devastated by a severe drought which has resulted in numerous deleterious effects to that part of the country.

New Mexico's neighbor to the east, Texas, has lost 5,000 head of cattle, 5,500 miles of fence, and 4.9 million acres have burned due to recent wildfires. Severe drought also exists in New Mexico, which is currently facing one of its worst droughts in the past 125 years. It is anticipated that great hardship will result in New Mexico as a result of this drought. These conditions require emergency measures be undertaken in both States.

Although the Appropriations Committee is silent on the intent of the appropriation to the Emergency Conservation Program, ECP, within the Department of Agriculture, it is my understanding that of the \$17 million made available to the ECP in this legislation, \$12 million is to be provided to the State of Texas and \$5 million is to be provided to the State of New Mexico. The amendment did not originally include ECP funding, so I want to especially thank Senator HUTCHISON for her leadership in requesting that these funds be included for ECP.

Mr. BENNETT. I appreciate the concerns of the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico regarding the ECP provision contained in title III of this legislation. The Senator's understanding of the intent of the ECP appropriation is correct.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I, too, concur with this assumption with Mr. BENNETT and Mr. DOMENICI. I appreciate their support and work on this important provision.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the distinguished Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT, and the distinguished Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON for their consideration and explanation of this important matter.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, Senator BROWNBACK and I wanted to tell you about our amendment 3741 and the progress we are making on one key aspect of the avian flu preparedness front. As we speak, the HHS and USAID are collaborating to administer the global avian influenza network for surveillance—GAINS program. GAINS is a smart and targeted investment in the USG's fight against avian flu since wild birds can carry the deadly disease and thus have the potential to spread it. HHS and USAID have invested \$6 million from fiscal year 2006 avian flu supplemental appropriations to establish GAINS. GAINS will require another \$4 million to complete and \$10 million for fiscal year 2007. Senator BROWNBACK and I are pleased to see that the health appropriations committee, led by Senators SPECTER and HARKIN, is helping to allocate \$200 million in part to carry out global and domestic surveillance to undertake activities of this sort. Our amendment doesn't add more money to the avian flu supplemental, but it makes clear HHS's commitment to GAINS, which we applaud.

GAINS will systematically test and monitor wild birds, captive wild birds, and birds in the wildlife/pet trade to